



NATIONAL WOMEN'S HEALTH WEEK

National Women's Health Week is a national effort by an alliance of organizations to raise awareness about manageable steps women can take to improve their health. The focus is on the importance of incorporating simple preventive and positive health behaviors into everyday life. When women take even the simplest steps to improve their health, the results can be significant. But women need to be able to choose the most effective steps for their individual lifestyles and circumstances. They need to be informed and take responsible actions to improve their own health.

The Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families, in collaboration with the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), the Rural/Frontier Women's Health Coordinating Center, and other state and local

partners, have created the Arizona Women's Health Week campaign to raise awareness about women's health issues and to foster collaboration between health care providers, state, local, and tribal government, and social service organizations. Arizona Women's Health Week is May 13-19 and will adhere to the national theme: "It's your time - Pamper your mind, body and spirit." The event is held in concert with a national effort by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to raise awareness about manageable steps women can take to improve their health. For more information about the national effort, visit <http://www.4woman.gov/whw/>

In Arizona in 2006, there were 29 activities in 6 counties. Activities included health fairs, seminars, and participatory fitness and focused

primarily on education and screening. The leading issues addressed through statewide activities were breast health and chronic disease prevention and/or treatment. However many other women's health issues were addressed as well. Plans are underway to plan and promote similar activities for 2007 with the goal of reaching out to more communities throughout the state.

To learn more about Women's Health Week and how your community can become involved, contact Jessica Yanow by calling 602-364-1486 or emailing her at yanowj@azdhs.gov.

For information about events for state employees and about local events visit the ADHS web site at <http://www.azdhs.gov/whweek>.

BABY ARIZONA: WHAT IS IT? HOW DOES IT WORK?

The Pregnancy and Breast Feeding Hotline is a statewide, bilingual service that has been sponsored by the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) since April 1988. The Hotline's mission is to ensure the health, safety, and well being of pregnant women and their families through community based, family centered, and culturally sensitive systems of care.

One of the many services that the Hotline provides is to assist Arizona's Medicaid program, the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS), with pre-screening for the Baby Arizona Program. Baby Arizona is a program that helps pregnant women begin the important prenatal care they need by providing a simple, faster way to get health care before

the application process for AHCCCS health insurance is complete.

How does prescreening work?

A woman will call the Hotline at 1-800-833-4642 stating that she thinks she is or knows she is pregnant. Hotline staff will ask if she is interested in completing a pre-screening for Baby Arizona. If she says yes, the Hotline representative will ask a series of questions that will provide potential eligibility. If the woman is potentially eligible she will be given the name and address of three Baby Arizona providers in her community. The woman will select one of the providers and schedule an appointment. At the first appointment the woman will be asked to complete a Baby Arizona application and will have her first prenatal visit.

The Provider's office will submit the application paperwork to the Department of Economic Security (DES) and will await notification of eligibility. If the woman is determined eligible she will continue with that provider thru delivery and AHCCCS will pay the bills.

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If she is determined in-eligible she can still continue her visits with the provider but she and the provider will need to work out a reasonable payment plan.

If during the pre-screening process

the woman appears ineligible, the Hotline representative will provide information on low cost care available in the woman's community. If program eligibility is too difficult to determine, the woman will be encouraged to apply at DES directly.

For more information about Baby Arizona visit the AHCCCS web site: <http://www.babyarizona.gov/Default.aspx>.



NEW 2007 COMMUNITY HEALTH GRANTS SERVE LOCAL COMMUNITIES

The Office of Women's and Children's Health awarded eight new Community Health Grants. Successful grantees include county health departments and private agencies, as well as tribal organizations. All of these have begun to provide much-needed services in parts of Apache, Coconino, Maricopa, Navajo, Santa Cruz, Navajo, Pima, and Yavapai Counties. Each program was tailored by and for the local community to meet its own identified needs, so no two grants are exactly alike. Although all of the programs fall within three major categories: reducing obesity and overweight among infants and children, reducing preventable infant mortality, and reducing the rate of injuries (both intentional and unintentional). A few program highlights are included below:

Apache County Health Department offers an age-appropriate car safety program for children from pre-school through teens. Parents of small children may receive education and free car seats. Classes about obesity/overweight targeted specifically toward Native American children grades 3 through 6 are offered. Information about preconception care, pregnancy, and newborn care is also available.

Coconino County Health Department operates a car seat safety program for children and adults.

Parents learn about proper installation, and may receive free car seats. In-school injury prevention presentations are provided for children. Topics include not only motor vehicle safety, but firearm safety, fire prevention, and poison prevention.

Maricopa County Department of Public Health provides an injury prevention program for children and adults, which may include free bicycle helmets and car seats. Instruction about preconception health and infant care, tobacco use, stress management, breastfeeding, and folic acid are also available, along with classes and activities that address obesity and being overweight.

Mariposa Community Health Center in Nogales provides nutrition information, physical activity, and motivation to reduce overweight and obesity among Hispanic women and adolescents. Intervention classes are designed to be both culturally and linguistically relevant for participants.

Mountain Park Health Center offers obesity/overweight reduction services for children in Maricopa County. Activities also include recruiting community partners who will commit to promoting healthy eating and physical activity, as well as providing resources to reduce childhood obesity among doctors and other

health counselors.

The Tohono O'odham Nation is creating a "Pregnancy Circle of Care" among service providers to integrate and strengthen substance abuse prevention. The program will draw on native culture, language, and traditions to achieve its purpose. Goals will include increasing community knowledge, changing community norms, and providing culturally appropriate prevention education materials, as well as improved risk assessments during early pregnancy.

Yavapai County Community Health Services provides first-time mothers with education and support about maternal and infant health care during regular home visits from a public health nurse. Clients receive education and support about nutrition and physical activity, as well as, information about breastfeeding, when to start their baby on solid foods and when to increase them, the dangers of bottle propping, and foods that can cause choking. In addition, they learn about home and transportation safety. Adolescents age 12 through 18 may receive education about healthy and abusive dating relationships.

Additional services may be available in each local area. For more information about Community Health Grants, please visit:

www.azdhs.gov/phs/owch/comhlth.htm.

FREE CONFERENCE HOSTED BY THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

The White House Office of Faith and Community Initiatives in partnership with the Governor's Office of Faith and Community Initiatives is hosting a free conference in Phoenix on May 15-16, 2007. The conference will be held at the Phoenix Convention Center in downtown Phoenix. The goal of the program is to provide participants with a general overview of the Faith-Based and Community Initiative, information about the government grants process and available funding opportunities, and an overview of the legal responsibilities that come with the receipt of Federal Funds. The event will also offer grant writing tutorials for select Federal Grant programs and a workshop for government procurement specialists on how government entities can contract with faith-based and community organizations. The conference is geared primarily towards faith-based and community organizations with little or no history of applying for government grants, as well as government staff interested in learning how they can work with faith-based and grass roots community organizations.

It is important to register as early as possible to ensure a space is reserved. The cut-off date for registration is May 1 or earlier if 2,000 registrations are received prior to that date. Please share this information with any staff or partner who might benefit from the information. The registration site is <http://www.dtiassociates.com/fbci/index.cfm>.

SCREENING NEWBORNS FOR CYSTIC FIBROSIS

In the early fall of 2007, the Arizona Department of Health Services will begin screening Arizona newborns for Cystic Fibrosis (CF). CF will be the final disorder to complete the panel of 29 disorders recommended nationally by the American Academy of Pediatrics and the March of Dimes.

The CF screening process includes two parts: IRT and DNA. For example, Girl Wonder's blood spot specimen arrives at the laboratory. The laboratory would test her blood spot for 29 disorders, including Cystic Fibrosis. An elevated immunoreactive trypsinogen (IRT) result would trigger a screen for DNA mutations. Results of IRT and DNA mutations will be reported to the healthcare provider who submitted Girl Wonder's specimen.

Arizona's two certified Cystic Fibrosis Centers (Phoenix Children's Hospital and Arizona Respiratory Center in Tucson) will offer consultation to newborns' healthcare providers. The CF Centers will conduct sweat tests to diagnose babies and subsequent treatment may ensue.

Using this testing methodology and considering the panel of DNA mutations for which we will screen newborns, we anticipate 15-20 cases of Cystic Fibrosis. The cost of CF screening will be included in the usual cost of newborn screening (\$30 for the 1st screen and \$40 for the 2nd screen). The Newborn Screening Program will offer CF education for healthcare providers. Please check out our website for future updates:

<http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/owch/newbrnscrn.htm>

CONGENITAL SYPHILIS: A SERIOUS THREAT TO BABIES IN ARIZONA

Syphilis is a serious sexually transmitted disease that can cause severe complications for those who are infected. Unfortunately, pregnant mothers infected with syphilis can pass this infection onto the babies they carry. Syphilis passed from an infected mother to her baby is known as congenital syphilis.

Sadly, Arizona leads the US in congenital syphilis rates for the years 2003, 2004, and 2005 (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention). Preliminary data for 2006 (ADHS & Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) suggest that Arizona will once again lead the US in the rate of congenital syphilis cases for that year. In Arizona, almost 75% of babies diagnosed with congenital syphilis are born to Hispanic mothers.

Lack of prenatal care, late, or limited prenatal care are contributing factors to the high rates of congenital syphilis in Arizona. Also, most missed opportunities to prevent congenital syphilis appear to be due to women not receiving an appropriate prenatal syphilis test or to not receiving adequate syphilis treatment 30 days prior to the delivery of the infant.

Congenital syphilis can be prevented by testing women early in their pregnancy for syphilis and by treating those pregnant women already infected. Arizona law requires that all women receive a

ROCKY MOUNTAIN PUBLIC HEALTH EDUCATION CONSORTIUM UPDATE

Mission Update

The Consortium's mission was recently updated. The mission of the Rocky Mountain Public Health Education Consortium (RMPHEC) is to improve health among women, children and families by increasing knowledge, skills, and capacity of the current and future public health workforce, organizations and systems thorough

- Workforce development
- Collaborative research
- Community engagement

Radical Changes Underway for the RMPHEC Summer Institute

The RMPHEC will offer the Institute training in a new way this year. Activities will be planned each year in conjunction with a member state's annual public health or other meeting. This year activities will be in conjunction with the Colorado/Wyoming Public Health Meeting that will be held September 15 to 19 in Fort Collins, Colorado. Mark your calendar and more information will follow!

RMPHEC MCH Certificate Program

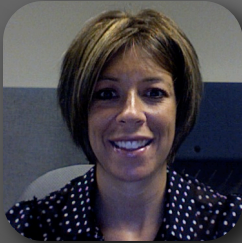
Applications will soon be released for the new class for the RMPHEC MCH Certificate Program. The certificate program is a popular way for you, your colleagues or staff to strengthen knowledge of maternal and child health. Offered through the Consortium, it is a one year, 12 credit hour program for MCH professionals wishing to enhance their public health leadership, scholarship and partnership capabilities. This year's program runs from September 2007 through September 2008. Watch the website at <http://w3.publichealth.arizona.edu/mch>.

RMPHEC Sponsors MCH Trainings in New Mexico and Alaska

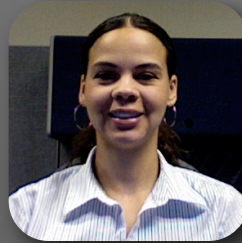
As part of efforts to increase MCH capacity within our region, the Consortium is now making two grants available each year to assist in the delivery of MCH content at local state events. In 2006, the consortium sponsored two events. The first resulted in a MCH track being available at the New Mexico Public Health Meeting. The second grant helped sponsor Dr Milt Kotelchuck's participation in the University of Alaska's MPH Seminar Series in Anchorage. Dr. Kotelchuck is the Chair of the Department of MCH at Boston University and founding Editor of the Maternal Child Health Journal. For more information about having a training sponsored in your state, contact Douglas Taren at taren@email.arizona.edu.

syphilis test at the time of their first prenatal visit. Many doctors and public health officials also recommend that women receive a syphilis test at the beginning of their third trimester of pregnancy. With appropriate early treatment, pregnant mothers infected with syphilis can be cured and thus prevent passing the infection onto their baby.

New Employees Since Our Last Edition



Cary Bailen
Health Educator



Jamie Smith
Injury Epidemiologist



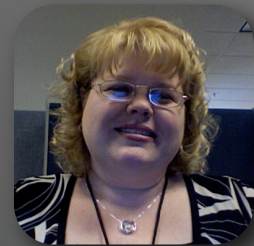
June Patnode
Assistant to the OWCH Chief



Denise Pawlak
Finance/ Grant Specialist



Dee Vlahos
Contract Specialist



Kim Wehmeyer
Office Manager



Cameron Lewis
Program Manager
Teen Pregnancy Prevention



Kirsten Grina
Program Manager
Sexual Health



Cheryl Czappa
Administrative Assistant
Planning Education and Partnership



Laura Miller
Follow-up Specialist
Newborn Screening Program



Katherine Rose
Administrative Secretary
Newborn Screening
Program



Tiffany McRae
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Hospital and Physician
Services



Kristy Weiss
Follow-up Specialist
Newborn Screening
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Sondi Aponte
Hearing Data Specialist
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